



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES  
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

April 2011



*Follow U.S. Embassy  
Bucharest on:*

facebook

[U.S. Embassy Bucharest on Facebook!](#)

And

[Embassy Bucharest Website](#)

## American Citizen Services eNewsletter

### It's that time of the year again...

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) advises that U.S. citizens and resident aliens living outside the United States can use [IRS Free File](#) to prepare and file their federal tax returns electronically.

[IRS Free File](#) is a brand-name software that is offered exclusively at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), through a partnership with the tax software industry.

There are five companies that accept foreign addresses. Taxpayers should review the list of tax forms supported by the company to ensure it meets their needs, especially Form 1116, Foreign Tax Credit, and/or Form 2555, Foreign Earned Income.

*To be eligible, taxpayers' adjusted gross income in 2010 must be \$58,000 or less. Some overseas taxpayers may exclude \$91,500 of their 2010 foreign earnings, which would make more people eligible for IRS Free File.*

Free File software generally asks questions and taxpayers supply the answers. The software completes the proper tax forms, does the math, and allows for free electronic filing through IRS e-file. By filing electronically, taxpayers due refunds and who have U.S. bank accounts can opt for direct deposit and get their refunds in as few as 10 days.

To get started with IRS Free File, go to [www.irs.gov/freefile](http://www.irs.gov/freefile) and select "Pick a Free File Company."

Taxpayers with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) over \$58,000 can e-file their returns by purchasing online software. ***Check the software provider's information to ensure that it can accommodate a foreign address.***

**freefile**  
IT'S FAST. IT'S SAFE. IT'S FREE.



All **non-emergency** ACS services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, notarial, etc.) are provided by appointment **ONLY**.

Please follow [this link](#) to make an appointment with the consular section staff.

#### AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Address: St. Filipescu 26, Bucharest

E-mail: [acsbucharest@state.gov](mailto:acsbucharest@state.gov)

Tel: +40- 21- 200 3300

Fax: +40- 21- 200 3578

In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please, call +40-21-200-3433

For information about public hours, please visit <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.





# FEMA



## PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED



### CHILDREN AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

*As difficult as it may be discussing disasters with your child, we encourage you to do so. The more your children understand about disasters and your preparedness efforts, the better prepared they are for unexpected things to happen. Don't you want your children to be well-informed and to feel safe knowing that their parents have taken all the right steps to minimize the risks of the unexpected? In addition, involving your children in family disaster planning activities may empower your children and build trust between family members. The age and maturity level of your children is of great importance, of course, when you choose the right approach to talk to them about something that may sound devastating to even an adult. So, you may need to modify or adjust some of the guidelines that we are offering you below that come from the City of San Francisco Disaster Preparedness website. More useful information may be found at <http://72hours.org/children.html>.*

- Include your children in family discussions and planning for emergency safety.
- Teach your children their **basic personal information** so they can identify themselves and get help if they become separated from a parent or guardian.
- Prepare an **emergency card** with information for each child, including his/her full name, address, phone number, and parent's work number and out of state contact.
- Know the **policies of the school or daycare center** your children attend. Make plans to have someone pick them up if you are unable to get to them.





- Regularly update your child's school with *current emergency contact information* and persons authorized to pick up your child from school.
- Make sure each child knows the *family's alternate meeting sites* if you are separated in a disaster and cannot return to your home.
- Make sure each child knows how to reach your family's *out-of-state contact person*.
- Teach children to *dial their home telephone number* and Emergency numbers.
- Teach children *what gas smells like* and advise them to tell an adult if they smell gas after an emergency.
- Warn children *never to touch wires on poles* or lying on the ground.
- Role-play with children to help them *remain calm in emergencies* and to practice basic emergency responses such as *evacuation routes, Drop, Cover & Hold and Stop, Drop & Roll*.
- Role-play with children as to what they should do if a parent is suddenly sick or injured.
- Role-play with children on *what to say when calling Emergency numbers*.

**Create a Kit:**

- *Include a family picture and a favorite toy, game or book for each child in his/her Go-bag.*
- *Include your child's emergency card and include information on reunification locations and out-of-area contact.*
- *Provide comfort food and treats for each child in your family disaster supplies kit. Keep a recent photo of your children in your Go-bag.*



TRAVEL.STATE.GOV

A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS  
U.S. Department of State

# ASK US ABOUT ➤



We continue to encourage all U.S. citizens to register their trips and residence abroad to facilitate our communications with them in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions about the *Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)*, please, email us at [ACSBucharest@state.gov](mailto:ACSBucharest@state.gov).

## Did You Know?



**13,883,129** U.S. Passports (including 1,596,485 passport cards) were issued in 2010 fiscal year.

Compared to **7,292,182** in 2000 and **5,547,693** in 1996...



## WE REMIND YOU...

### Internet Dating and Scams

Scams involving U.S. citizens have led to the loss of considerable amounts of money, ranging from a few hundred dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars. *Read more about [International Financial Scams](#) and what you can do if you believe you are a target.*



**The Embassy will be closed on Apr 25, May 30, Jun 13, Jul 4, Aug 15, Sep 5, Oct 10, Nov 11, Nov 24 and Dec 1 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays.**



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

***Is my U.S. driver's license valid in Romania?***

**U.S. driver's licenses** are only valid in Romania for up to 90 days. Before the 90-day period has expired, U.S. citizens must either obtain an international driving permit in addition to their U.S. driver's license or a Romanian driver's license. If your American driver's license has been lost or stolen, the Embassy cannot assist you in obtaining a new one. You will be advised to contact the DMV of your state of residence to request a new driver's license. The contact information for your state's DMV may be found at [http://www.dmvnv.com/50\\_state\\_dmv\\_list.html](http://www.dmvnv.com/50_state_dmv_list.html).

Occasionally, the Romanian traffic police turns in American driver's licenses that were lost or stolen to the consular section. If your license was lost or stolen and you are registered with us, we'll make every attempt to return it to you. If, however, your American driver's license was confiscated from you by the traffic police for traffic violations, *we recommend that you contact us to find out how you may be able to recover it.* All unclaimed driver's licenses are forwarded to the DMV of the state of issuance.

If you have any questions, please, email us at [ACSBucharest@state.gov](mailto:ACSBucharest@state.gov).